3. (amended) The isolated [Isolated] DNA according to claim 1, [claims 1 or 2, characterized in that] wherein the amino acid sequence of said ligand-binding domain of said protein exhibits at least 75%[, preferably 80%, more preferably 90%, most preferably 100%] homology with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

4. (amended) The isolated [Isolated] DNA according to claim 1 [claims 1 to 3], wherein said DNA [encoding] encodes a protein comprising [the] an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:25.

5. (amended) The isolated [Isolated] DNA according to claim 1 [claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] said DNA comprises [the] a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:20 or SEQ ID NO:24.

6. (amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising the DNA according to claim 1 [any of the claims 1 to 5].

7. (amended) A cell transfected with DNA according to claim 1 [claims 1 to 5 or an expression vector according to claim 6].

8. (amended) [A] The cell according to claim 7, which is a stable transfected cell line [which] that expresses [the] a steroid receptor protein according to any of the claims 9 to 11.

9. (amended) A protein [Protein] encoded by DNA according to claim 1 [claims 1 to 5 or an expression vector according to claim 6].

10. (amended) The protein [Protein] according to claim 9, said protein comprising [the] an amino acid sequence selected

from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6, SEQ ID NO:21 or SEQ ID NO:25.

11. (amended) A chimeric [Chimeric] protein having an N-terminal domain, a DNA-binding domain, and a ligand-binding domain, [characterized in that] wherein at least one of said domains of said chimeric protein originates from a protein according to claim 9 [claims 9 or 10], and at least one of the other domains of said chimeric protein originates from another receptor protein from the nuclear receptor superfamily, provided that the DNA-binding domain and the ligand-binding domain of said chimeric protein [originates] originate from different proteins.

12. (amended) A DNA that encodes [encoding] a protein according to claim 11.

Please cancel claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

14. (amended) A method for identifying functional ligands for the protein according to claim 9 [claims 9 to 11], said method comprising the steps of

a) introducing into a suitable host cell 1) DNA according to claim 1 [claims 1 to 5 or 12], and 2) a suitable reporter gene functionally linked to an operative hormone response element (HRE), said HRE being able to be activated by the DNA-binding domain of the protein encoded by said DNA;

b) bringing the host cell from step a) into contact with potential ligands which will possibly bind to the ligand-binding domain of the protein encoded by said DNA from step a);

c) monitoring the expression of the protein encoded by said reporter gene of step a).